

# Arizona Department of Health Services

## Bureau of Health Systems Development and Oral Health

### Office of Oral Health - 2009

The Mission of the Office of Oral Health is to promote oral health for the well being of all Arizona residents. The primary areas of focus include:

#### **Community Development Prevention Programs Research and Analysis**

#### ***Community Development***

Community development initiatives focus on promoting oral health at the state and community levels, assisting communities in assessing their oral health needs and resources, providing assistance to communities to increase access to oral health services through development of dental clinics and promoting optimal fluoridation of community water systems. Some examples are:

- ***Dental Trailer Loan***

The Trailer Loan Program assists Arizona communities in establishing permanent dental facilities for underserved populations. A trailer equipped with two dental operatories and an x-ray unit is leased for a nominal fee and used to provide services while establishing a permanent dental care delivery program. Applicants must be non-profit or community-based, demonstrate a need in the community and have a viable plan for sustainability of a permanent dental facility or program to replace the trailer within five years. As a result of this program, nine community dental clinics have been established in Arizona over the past 10 years.

- ***Community Water Fluoridation***

These activities include: reporting community water system fluoride levels to the CDC, providing technical support and consultation to communities and supporting fluoridation efforts of Arizona communities.

- ***Oral Health Workforce Grant (Teledentistry)***

To increase the effectiveness of the dental workforce by utilizing dental hygienists, dentists and teledentistry equipment in a variety of remote, rural, teaching or school based sites. Patient information is transmitted to general dentists or specialists and treatment can be provided in real time or can be triaged. The partners in this project are Northern Arizona University, ATStill School of Dental and Oral Health, Head Start, Indian Health Services and Scottsdale Health Care's school based NOAH Clinic. This three year grant will end in August 2009.

#### ***Prevention Programs***

Prevention programs include training of health professionals and oral health programs for children and promoting the use of dental sealants by public and private dental care systems to prevent tooth decay in children. Some examples of these programs are:

- ***Preschool Prevention***

A media campaign "First Dental Visit by Age One " has garnered television and newspaper interviews and articles in professional journals during 2007-08. Information for the media, parents, dentists and medical providers can be found on the web at <http://www.AZSmiles.org>. Preschool prevention includes the training "Oral Health in Early Childhood" for child care providers and continuing education for medical and dental providers to encourage early screening and referral.

- ***Arizona Dental Sealant Program***

The Arizona Dental Sealant Program provides dental sealants to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6th grade children in public and charter schools. Schools with at least 65% participation in the Free and Reduced School Meal Program and students who have no private insurance and attend these schools are eligible. During the 2007-08 school year, 10,481 children received screenings and nearly 7,860 children received 29,628 protective dental sealants in 192 schools in six counties: Coconino, Maricopa, Mohave, Yavapai, Yuma and Pima.

- ***School-based Fluoride Mouthrinse Program***

This program is available to students in first through sixth grade attending schools with a high participation in the Free and Reduced School Meal Program. Schools must be located in communities with less than optimal fluoride levels in the public water system. In the 2007-08 school year, over 16,000 children in 12 counties received the benefits of fluoride through this program

## **Research & Analysis**

Research and analysis activities include conducting assessments of selected communities and populations to evaluate oral health status and treatment needs for use in program planning and policy making. Some recent and current examples are:

- ***The Oral Health of Arizona's Children~Current Status, Trends, and Disparities***

Oral Health survey data on 13,000 Arizona Children are available on the Web at <http://azdhs.gov/cfhs/ooh/>.

- ***Community Oral Health Profiles***

Oral health data are compiled from several agencies and are available for 173 communities in Arizona. Data are also available for counties. Call 602-542-1866 for your community's data.

- ***Senior Survey***

The goal of this survey was to obtain better knowledge about oral health status of older adults, their current use of interventions to prevent tooth decay, and to identify unmet oral health needs. The survey included written questions, an oral screening and a fluoride varnish application. The final report is available by contacting the Office of Oral Health.

- ***Pre-School Survey***

A survey that includes oral screenings and referrals for treatment is currently being conducted on children in child care settings in Arizona. The data collection phase will be completed in winter 2008 with a final report anticipated by summer 2009.

- ***Sealant Indicator, Asthma, Height and Weight Survey***

This survey, in collaboration with the Office of Chronic Disease, will begin in fall 2008 and collect oral health, height, weight and asthma information on 8,000 third grade children throughout Arizona. The purpose is to gather information necessary to develop public health programs and policy. Oral health information will monitor trends and measure progress toward Healthy People 2010 objectives; the height and weight information will establish baseline measurements for Arizona; prevalence of asthma will be collected to establish baselines in Arizona.

**Office of Oral Health  
Arizona Department of Health Services**

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The Office of Oral Health is funded by the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, Preventive Block Grant, a HRSA grant and State appropriated funds

## **Useful Web Sites**

### ***Synopsis of Information about oral health programs, by state***

Oral Health summaries for each state and territory. Includes information on demographics, infrastructure, workforce, and the state oral health program.  
<http://www2a.cdc.gov/nccdphp/doh/synopses/index.asp>

### ***Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System***

State-level data; randomized telephone survey of adults in each state. Questions on risk and health behaviors updated annually, including oral health information listed by age, gender, race, income, and education.  
<http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/>

### ***Community Health Profiles***

A compilation of data from several state sources/agencies  
<http://azdhs.gov/hsd/chpweb/2003/index.htm>

### ***Best Practices for State Oral Health Programs***

[www.astdd.org](http://www.astdd.org)

### ***Guide to Community Preventive Services—Systematic Reviews and Recommendations of the Literature***

[www.thecommunityguide.org/oral](http://www.thecommunityguide.org/oral)

### ***National Guideline Clearing House***

#### ***Diagnosis and Management of Dental Caries Throughout Life***

[http://www.guideline.gov/summary/summary.aspx?doc\\_id=2792&nbr=2018&string=dental+AND+caries](http://www.guideline.gov/summary/summary.aspx?doc_id=2792&nbr=2018&string=dental+AND+caries)

### ***Maternal & Child Health Library***

<http://www.mchlibrary.info/>

### ***Basic Dental Screening—Protocol for Health Professionals***

<http://www.astdd.org/index.php?template=surveybss.html>